



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

June 18, 2004

Dear Agents

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have given me and the California Partnership for Long-Term Care and to announce that I will be retiring as Project Director of the Partnership as of July 1, 2004.

Thanks to your work and dedication to the program, there are over 67,000 Californians who, because of the Partnership's high-quality private long-term care coverage, will not become impoverished should they need long-term care. This number is growing by no less than 20,000 a year and hopefully will double once the employer initiative rolls out.

The mission of the Partnership was not only something I was passionate about because of the stories I heard, but in recent years has become a very personal matter. My decision to retire is based on my desire to spend quality time with my husband, who, as many of you know, was diagnosed with MS about 30 years ago. Thankfully, I was able to plan ahead. I am grateful that the Partnership has given me the opportunity to encourage other consumers to do the same. Through advance planning, they can be in the best position possible should one of their loved ones ever need long-term care.

I did not want to leave without knowing that the Partnership program will continue to help and educate people. With the Governor's proposed legislation removing the December 31, 2004 sunset date and both the Assembly and Senate budget committees giving unanimous support for the permanency of this program, I am confident that the program will continue without me. I will always keep the door open to anyone that needs help and have offered to be available to the Partnership on a consultancy basis for as long as the program requires my assistance.

Brenda Bufford, the program's current Deputy Project Director, will become the Partnership's Acting Project Director upon my retirement. Brenda has been with the program for nearly five years and those of you who have worked with her know that she is very capable and committed to the Partnership program.

Again, thank you for your support of me and the Partnership. Together we have helped thousands of Californians, and in doing so, I have had the time of my life!

Sincerely,

Sandra Pierce Miller